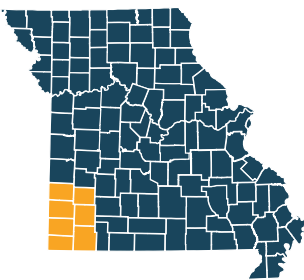


SOUTHWEST REGION

MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

JANUARY 2025



Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on its outlook over the next decade. Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and current average wages. Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The Southwest region is projected to have more than 14,200 annual job openings through 2032. The vast majority (91%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations have higher wages and growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 53 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations in the region in 2023 (\$49,175).

Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades

Grade A	Grade B	Grade C
1,349 Job Openings \$75,418 Average Wage	7,794 Job Openings \$48,275 Average Wage	3,767 Job Openings \$40,915 Average Wage

Transportation & Material Moving Occupations

Projected to have the most annual total job openings

over 2,300

Transportation & Material Moving Occupations

Most grade A and B annual openings

over 2,200

Transportation & Material Moving Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs Concentration

97%

Top Outlook Occupation Groups







Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	2,361	2,293	97%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	1,705	829	49%
Production Occupations	1,479	676	46%
Sales and Related Occupations	1,431	706	49%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	1,357	712	52%
Management Occupations	788	563	71%
Healthcare Support Occupations	747	675	90%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	593	429	72%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	584	521	89%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	580	397	68%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	474	437	92%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	457	68	15%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	418	278	67%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	350	273	78%

Southwest Region Top Grade Jobs

Now Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Stockers and Order Fillers 	624	10.0%	\$35,558
B+	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand 	463	8.8%	\$36,568
B+	Retail Salespersons 	422	6.8%	\$35,111
B+	Home Health and Personal Care Aides 	380	14.8%	\$31,763
B	Fast Food and Counter Workers 	286	2.0%	\$28,662
B	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners 	270	4.1%	\$32,801
B	Office Clerks, General	253	-5.8%	\$41,245
B	Customer Service Representatives 	209	-4.1%	\$40,103
B+	Packers and Packagers, Hand	152	9.3%	\$37,003
B	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators 	122	2.5%	\$42,167

Next Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 	481	-0.6%	\$53,260
A	Cooks, Restaurant	214	19.7%	\$31,641
B+	Nursing Assistants 	194	8.3%	\$34,638
B+	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General 	179	6.4%	\$47,290
B	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers 	143	4.3%	\$36,412
B	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	123	2.9%	\$33,917
B+	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers 	106	1.2%	\$61,670
A	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	104	12.5%	\$46,047
B	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers 	99	-4.1%	\$49,152
B	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	93	1.0%	\$44,139

Later Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	General and Operations Managers 	333	3.6%	\$77,445
A+	Registered Nurses 	232	16.8%	\$72,451
B+	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	107	4.1%	\$52,119
B+	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	83	4.3%	\$63,201
A	Accountants and Auditors	56	6.6%	\$71,209
B	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	55	6.6%	\$39,666
B	Human Resources Specialists	46	3.8%	\$60,205
B	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	38	4.7%	\$60,931
B+	Project Management Specialists	35	3.6%	\$77,310
B+	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	35	13.2%	\$60,992

 Flame icon indicates occupations with the top 20 online job postings in 2023 within NNL (Now, Next, Later) categories.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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